

Guilden Morden Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at  
[bit.ly/CambsCollection](http://bit.ly/CambsCollection)

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in  
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library  
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the  
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1899 02 08

The funeral of John Sanderson took place at Guilden Morden. Deceased was well known as in addition to being a carrier to Royston he was a familiar figure at the feasts held in the district. On the arrival of the corpse at his home, the window of the cottage had to be removed before the coffin could be placed in the house. It was made of stout elm, and measured 6ft 9in in length, 2ft 6 in width. The weight of the coffin and corpse was estimated at 40 stone. The new bier was brought into requisition and found to be only just wide enough to admit the coffin being placed upon it.

1899 04 21

An exhibition of articles produced by students attending technical education classes was opened at Cambridge Guildhall. Many samples of straw plaiting work were entered by pupils from Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden and Tadlow. It is to be hoped that after another 12 months instruction the revival of straw plaiting in these localities as an industry will be an established fact

1904 01 06

An inquest was held at Guilden Morden on a 70-year-old man who was given a dose of laudanum shortly before his death. His daughter said she had never known him take it before; she obtained two-pennyworth and gave him half a teaspoonful neat. William Bridgeman, registered chemist from Ashwell, said two grains was a fair dose for an adult. The doctor said laudanum was a great deal too much used in that part for pains of all kinds. Two grains of opium was too much and dangerous for such an old man but not sufficient to account for his death. He had died from heart failure.

1907 02 12

Licensing sessions – Bottisham, Pike & Eel Fen Ditton, Swaffham Prior – Anchor & Red Lion, Guilden Morden – Six Bells – 07 02 12a & b

1908 07 31

Cambridgeshire County Council have purchased a farm at Milton by auction and arranged to hire land at Guilden Morden and Isleham for use as smallholdings. They have also been offered 166 acres at Herod's Farm Foxton for £3,500. Petitions have been received from applicants urging the early acquisition of land in Over and Wicken. CWN 08 07 31

1913 08 01

The Crystal Palace pub in Mill Road Cambridge was difficult to supervise, police reported. The only way to get to the back was down a narrow passage at the side, the door of which was always locked. The Bell in Northampton Street was in bad repair with terrible accommodation, the house was damp and the only cooking facilities were in an underground kitchen. The landlady of the Chequers Impington said it was the only place to get a good glass of beer and if it closed many a man would become a teetotaler. The Gravel Diggers was right down in Cottenham fen but there was a considerable amount of labour at certain seasons. The tenant had held the licence for 30 years. It was renewed also Priory Tap, Melbourn White Horse, Guilden Morden Black Swan, Dry Drayton Prince of Wales, Swavesey Middle Watch & Black Horse, Soham Black Horse 11 07 14

1913 08 01

Guilden Morden cottages \*

1914 10 30

Enlistment Hardwick, Histon, Oakington, Litlington, Guilden Morden,

1920 07 14

Licences refused Barrington Victorian, Guilden Morden 'Pig & Whistle', Castle Camps 'George and Dragon', Linton 'Axe & Saw' – 20 07 14b

1920 11 17

Licenses refused: Barrington : Victoria; Guilden Morden Pig & Whistle; Castle Camps George & Dragon; Linton Axe & Saw – 20 11 17c

1920 07 10

Public houses considered for closure – Victoria, Barrington; Guilden Morden Pig & Whistle, Cherry Hinton Hopbine, Castle Camps George & Dragon, Linton Axe & Saw, King Street Boot, Chesterton High Street Indian Chief, Newnham Road Tally Ho, East Road Turnstile, Gwydir Street Dew Drop

1927 06 27

An inspection of the River Rhee from Guilden Morden to Cambridge showed banks were much overgrown and a number of trees had fallen into the stream. There was only one foot of water in the river in places. There are two mills in use, at Guilden Morden and Grantchester. One at Harston had not been used for a year and at Barrington no work had been possible for some years and the channel was blocked up. The river at Shelford was in a most dilapidated state

1931 08 21

A.J. Willmott of Royston has retired after serving 42 years with the Post Office. He used to travel for many years between Bassingbourn and Guilden Morden, driving a horse and cart, but lost his heart to a Royston lady and had been there ever since. He did his duties in a praiseworthy manner and always carried a smiling face. But he had not enjoyed good health and was moving to Westcliff into a house electrically fitted; he was presented with an electric kettle and a reading lamp by his colleagues. 31 08 21a

1932 02 11

A fire broke out in the roof of Guilden Morden church on Wednesday. There had been two services and in preparation for another in the evening Mr S. Leonard the caretaker had re-lit the stove. The flue runs through the part of the roof where the fire was. The wood in the roof must have been very dry to burst into flames so soon after the fire was lit. The caretaker, aided by villagers, flung buckets of water on to the roof; a handpump was also used and the flames had been subdued when the brigade arrived. 32 02 11

1943 10 22

Loss to Village—By the passing of Mr. W. G. Levy, at the age of 70 years, the village (Guilden Morden) has lost another well-known and highly respected inhabitant. A native of Somborne, near Winchester, Hants., he came to reside in the village some 10 years ago, and his genial disposition soon won him the respect and affection of many friends. He became a member, and later a deacon, of the Congregational Church, and at a memorial service on Sunday last, the Minister spoke of his dependability in all that he undertook, and stressed the great loss the church had suffered. Mr, Levy was also an early member of the 25th Detachment of the Cambs. B.R.C.S. and acted as quarter-master of the detachment until his health forced him to resign

1944 02 18

Former well digger.—by the passing of Mr. F. Webb at the age of 91, the village (Guilden Morden) has lost its oldest inhabitant. In earlier years he achieved fame as a well digger and borer for water, and gained an extensive knowledge of local water supplies over a wide area. He had four sons, three of whom are still living, one being, in Australia, and two daughters.

1944 05

Pub Harvest Festivals.—The death occurred in his sleep on May 9 of Mr. Alfred William Essam, landlord of the Six Bells Inn Guilden Morden. Mr. Essam, who was 69 years of age, was a native of Newnham Paddocks, Worcestershire, and came to the village four years ago. One feature of his tenancy of the Six Bells was his annual harvest festival sale, the proceeds of which were given to Red Cross funds

1948 10 15

Premier Travel told the Traffic Commissioners that in August 1947 they had acquired the business of a firm at Barley who, pre-war, were authorised to operate excursions from a number of points. Now they were seeking that the people of Bassingbourn, Guilden Morden area should have the benefit of coastal and recreational facilities for the theatre at Peterborough and for Newmarket races. The adjutant at Bassingbourn R.A.F. station said they were a Commonwealth station and a good many of the people there were from the Dominions. The matter of sightseeing was of great importance to them.

1949 02 18

South Cambs. R.D.C. have given an assurance it is their policy to take water into every council house in their district. Lists of tenants who suffered extreme hardship by reason of having to obtain water from standpipes were submitted from Bassingbourn, Guilden Morden and Melbourn. In 1938 they had sent out a circular letter to every house asking if they would pay 2d a week for water, but nearly every village voted against it

1956 02 25

Guilden Morden clock and rood screen – 56 02 25b

***The Cambridgeshire Collection has newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1964 04 29

Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden photo feature – 64 04 29c

1979 10 26

Guilden Morden villagers have complained that the rubbish bags they are being issued with by dustmen were rubbish: as soon as you tie a knot in the top and lift them up it spills out everywhere. Now they have been asked to take part in a survey of other types of bags. They will receive samples of various rival makes and put them through rigorous testing to find a better bag.

1982 12 04

A converted dovecote at Guilden Morden is on the market for £40,000. They were once used by the Lord of the Manor to provide a winter meat supply but began to fall out of use in the 19th century when farmers started keeping animals alive during winter. Those built after 1810 were for decoration or simply status symbols. One of the main features was the lantern area at the top which used to provide access for the birds. Here it has been retained and glazed in to help with ventilation in summer. 82 12 04

1984 09 28

Cambridge's oldest greengrocer's business, Naylor's of Mill Road which been trading since January 1900 has closed. It was founded by William Thomas Naylor who moved from his family's farm at Duck End, Guilden Morden. Before long he had opened a second shop, now a delicatessen and a greengrocer's in Norfolk Street. The Mill Road shop had a better clientele in those days. Many of the houses were owned by fairly wealthy families. Now they are let as bed-sitters and most of the custom has been from students. Doctors and maternity hospital staff were good customers but the hospital has now closed. Courgettes, kiwi fruit and aubergines have joined traditional English products in recent years. 84 09 28